United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1521
15 November 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia to hold opening session in the Hague, Netherlands, on Wednesday; judges to elect President and adopt Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

+ One UNOSOM II civilian staff member killed, two wounded, in ambush in Mogadishu on Saturday.

+ WHO report says tens of millions of people have died worldwide because of neglect of tuberculosis; warns that disease could become untreatable if dismissed as low priority for action.

* * *

The International Tribunal set up to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia will hold its opening session in the Hague, Netherlands, on Wednesday. The Tribunal, which was established by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, will have the power to prosecute persons alleged to have committed or ordered the commission of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide.

The opening session will be attended by Prosecutor-designate Ramon Escovar-Salom and the Tribunal's eleven judges, and by Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Carl-August Fleischhauer, who will read a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General. The judges will take an oath of office and will proceed to elect a President of the Tribunal and to draft and adopt Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

* * *

A civilian staff member of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was killed and two others were wounded on Saturday when their vehicle was ambushed by four gunmen while travelling to UNOSOM II Headquarters in Mogadishu. Kai Lincoln, a United States national, died as a result of serious wounds in the chest and abdomen, while Shirley Brownell, a Liberian

(more)

For information media--not an official record

national, and Lars Anderson, a Norwegian, were reported to be in stable condition after the incident.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, later expressed condolences to Mr. Lincoln's family and to the people of the United States. The incident was being investigated and every effort would be made to apprehend those responsible, according to a UNOSOM II press release.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) today said that decades of neglect had lead to the deaths of tens of millions of people from tuberculosis, and warned that the disease could become untreatable if it continued to be dismissed as a low priority for action. In a report issued today, WHO recommended that aid agencies spend more than $100 million on treatment programmes for tuberculosis in every region of the world. The report drew particular attention to the tuberculosis epidemic in the United States and other industrialized countries.

Arata Kochi, Manager of WHO's Tuberculosis Programme, said the resurgence of the disease in recent years had resulted from the neglect of health care programmes, the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) -- which destroys the cells that keep tuberculosis bacteria dormant -- and fast and accessible travel between countries and continents. He warned that it would become impossible to control the disease in industrialized nations unless it was tackled in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

* *** *